

Own league might be best for Goodwood

As the pucksters put away their sticks and skates to celebrate the holidays, the folks who run the kids softball program in Goodwood are a little less than excited with what they found in their Christmas basket this year.

It would appear that all the rumblyngs we've been hearing for the past several years about the inevitable cutting of the Goodwood-Whitchurch-Stouffville minor softball cord are about to become more than groundless speculation.

For 12 years, the Goodwood people have been allowed

"special status" within the Whitchurch-Stouffville Softball Association. The avid softball types in that little Durham hamlet have been afforded, for the most part, the same rights and privileges as the taxpayers of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

They provided their own diamonds, equipment, and umpires, of course. But in every other way, they have been included in the schedule in the same manner as Stouffville's own satellites of Ballantrae and Vandorf.

And they always enjoyed a



Sport notes

Bruce Stapley

great measure of success, in fact, perhaps a little too much.

Having coached against Goodwood teams in my years in the Stouffville ball program in the early to mid-1980s, I remember

getting a little miffed on occasion at the intensity displayed by Goodwood coaches and players.

My sand castle building T-Ball crew was routed by a crack Goodwood unit in my debut as a

coach in 1981, and things never really got any better.

Who is to say that a small part of the reason the Goodwood contingent is now being told to go find another league isn't because of a lingering bad taste left by that highly competitive, win-at-all-costs approach?

I would be remiss not to add that the only examples of questionable behavior that I ever witnessed, from both parents and players, in my coaching years, was in games involving Goodwood teams.

Which is certainly not to suggest that there was anything more than a small minority of undesirable types among a strong collection of kids, moms and dads.

But the memory lingers. Now in one way, however, Goodwood has never been any different from Vandorf, in that both towns have traditionally entered rep calibre ball teams into what is meant to be a lower level house league program.

That situation may well be starting to change, now that the Stouffville folks have taken steps to upgrade the quality of their teams.

But the point is that Vandorf, as a part of Whitchurch-Stouffville, has the inalienable right to stay on forever.

As for Goodwood, they may find it to their advantage to seek out a few small Durham-Region towns to form a league with areas with the same hard posed softball tradition.

Right now, having Goodwood in the Whitchurch-Stouffville program is a little like mixing apples and oranges.

For Goodwood, it feel, just isn't a house league hamlet. Far better for them to wear their town colors as they take on other serious minded ballplayers and coaches from built up rural areas like their own.

In the long run, the improved competition, and the independence, will make for a much better softball program for Goodwood.

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